



The Town of Fenwick Island

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The Town of Fenwick Island has, consistent with its Charter and Ordinances, established a service for the collection and disposal of all types of refuse. These services are provided in an effort to sustain the health and welfare of Town residents. The related fees are directly associated with the costs incurred. The costs have been openly bid and competitively awarded.

The Charter of the Town of Fenwick Island, which is granted by the State of Delaware, establishes powers related to "Budget" (Section 23) and confers upon the Town Council the authority to set rates for services authorized by the Council. "General Powers" (Section 25), furthermore, empowers the Council with functions necessary for public health, safety, and welfare.

After due consideration to the costs related to in-house provision of trash collection and disposal services, the Town advertised for competitive bids offered by qualified contractors. The lowest responsible bidder was awarded a three-year contract with the cost billed directly to the Town. The contract, commencing on May 1, 2008, was for \$170.88 per unit for the first year, \$177.00 for the second year and \$180.00 for the third year. The trash disposal component of the August 2009 through July 2010 budget is \$181 per unit. The actual cost for this service during the fiscal year is \$177.75 per unit.

Bulk pick-up and disposal service continues to be performed by Town staff. Landfill charges during the 2008-09 fiscal year were \$3,440. There are 676 occupied dwellings in Fenwick Island. This number, divided by the landfill charges, amounts to \$5.08. The bulk pickup component of the current budget is \$5 per unit.

The Town Council has made a public policy decision with regard to recycling. Containers and the service have been provided at no charge, but the current contract is about to expire. The rate for all providers has increased, as well. After a public, competitive bid, the lowest responsible bidder was chosen. The actual rate per pickup, multiplied by the number of pickups From September 1, 2009 through July 31, 2010 is \$75.95 per unit. The recycling component of the "Comprehensive Refuse Fee" is \$76.

The projected cost for all services combined over the next year is \$258.78. The billed amount is \$262 – a one percent difference.

Declining revenues in building permits and rental taxes have prompted the Council to take the position that these services cannot be sustained through general revenue sources. The fee for service model, therefore, applies. We will endeavor to use competitively priced providers and work, in all areas, to keep expenses at a minimum.